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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Association of Short Wave Radio
Amateurs

REPORT

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

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SUBJECT Association of Short Wave Radio Amateurs

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1. The Association of Short Wave Radio Amateurs of the Rumanian Peoples' Republic (Asociatia Amatorilor de unde scurte din RPR - AAUSR) was founded in Bucharest in 1948 by 20 radio amateurs. It was formed as an independent organization devoted to the study of the development of radio technique. To form any association at that time in Rumania, it was necessary for at least 20 persons first to obtain approval from the Palace of Justice. Approval to form the AAUSR was immediately granted, after application, primarily through the influence of Ernst GROSS, a well-known Rumanian engineer. GROSS later was elected president of the executive committee which consisted of four or five members. In 1948, he was director of the Rumanian broadcasting station in Bucharest and, as a radio amateur, had his own radio station. He participated in international radio conferences and, in 1947 attended the conference held at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Vintila GOLUMBOVICI, chief of the post office radio control station and George CRAIU, an engineer, both Rumanians, were on the committee. All members of the executive committee were radio amateurs and voluntary officers with the exception of the secretary who was a paid worker. Members of the association were primarily radio amateurs although a few were members of the Rumanian security forces; however, members were aware of this fact. one member worked for the security as a radio technician.

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2. Until 1952, the only aim of the association was the technical and theoretical development of radio and it was stated in their charter that the association would be a non-political organization; however, in 1952 political meetings had been introduced. In the same year members were told they could no longer communicate with radio amateurs in non-Communist countries, but after a youth festival in 1953, members were given permission to resume contact with amateurs in those countries. Contact with amateurs in Yugoslavia was not forbidden but members voluntarily stopped all communication.

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3. Members paid dues of 75 lei every three months after the formation of the association but after the currency reform of January 1952, this was changed to 100 lei every two years.
4. Meetings were held twice a week by the association. In 1950, [] they were held at Jacques Elias Street, No 2, in Bucharest. The meetings were primarily devoted to discussions of radio equipment and transmitting and receiving problems. Political topics were never discussed. 25X1
5. Each member had his own equipment at home. The association had only Morse apparatus for the beginners. By January 1954 there were 200 members of the association in Bucharest. In that month, the association asked the Rumanian Army for financial assistance but instead of granting the request, the association was dissolved and taken over by the army. At that time, members who had radio equipment in their homes were required to obtain permission to keep it. Of the 200 members, only 50 to 60 had their petitions approved. To obtain approval, a member was required to submit three or four copies of the petition together with a sketch of the transmitter-receiver to a committee within the association. This committee merely certified that the operator was qualified and belonged to the association. The petition then went to the post office where a committee reviewed it. This committee consisted of representatives from the post office, Rumanian army, Rumanian broadcasting company, and the government security forces. If all members were in agreement, the petitioner received a license and paid a small yearly fee to the post office. [] 25X1
6. After the Rumanian Army took over the AAUSR, it was decided by the army to organize similar groups in all the cities and larger towns in Rumania. All equipment and instruction would be provided by the army. [] a group in Constanta [] had about 10 members and [] had been in existence before 1954. 25X1
7. In summer 1954, [] a meeting of the AAUSR in Constanta given in a private home, and attended by about 15 persons. A Rumanian Army colonel stated that the Rumanian Army was interested in aiding young people to develop and improve themselves, and that the army would aid the association as an organization under the Voluntary Association for Technical and Physical Culture (Asociatia Voluntara de Cultura Tehnica si Fizica - AVCTF). Further, that the army would organize courses for beginners and provide the AAUSR with radio equipment. The Bucharest branch of the association joined the AVCTF after it lost its radio equipment in a fire. 25X1
8. The AVCTF was an organization under the sponsorship of the Rumanian Army which gave training to various groups such as parachutists, glider pilots, conventional plane pilots, sharpshooters, radio operators, etc.

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